one or more of the remote sites are stored separately at the location of the central server computer, with the image data being compressed, and the textual information included in a relational database with associated image identifiers. The central computer has the capability for independent management of both image and textual data, to ensure that all information can be independently retrieved. Requests are made from remote terminals to the central server computer, with the capability of processing multiple, simultaneous requests. Upon a request from a remote terminal, textual and associated image data are recalled and downloaded for review. Various forms of data and image formatting may be employed, including encryption techniques to maintain the security of the data. The server computers may be interlaced with other computers, to provide for the capability for entering images associated with financial transactions, so that they may be accessed as permanent records of the system.--

IN THE CLAIMS

1. 6. (TWICE AMENDED) A secure identification method, the method comprising the steps of:

capturing a first graphical representation of a subject, the representation being at least one physical trait selected from the group consisting of a fingerprint, [eye scan, hair, weight, birthmark or race] facial image and signature at a first data terminal;

transferring the first graphical representation of the subject to a centralized computer located remotely from the first data terminal;

receiving the first graphical representation of the subject at the centralized computer, and compressing and storing information representative of the subject in a relational database according to a standard compression format at the location of the centralized computer;

associating the at least one selected representation with at least one computer activation datum, which when activated allows access to the database;